

The Board's Minutes of the East Donegal Township Board of Supervisors  
Held on October 18, 2022

The work session of the Board of Supervisors of East Donegal Township was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 8:30 AM in the East Donegal Township Municipal Building, 190 Rock Point Road, Marietta, PA 17547.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jones.

Supervisor Jones led with a Prayer and Pledge to the Flag.

Roll call of Supervisors: Present were Chairman Thomas M. Jones, Vice-Chairman Allen D. Esbshade and Supervisor Scott Kingsboro. Jeffrey Butler, Township Manager, Jodi Diaz, Township Finance Officer, Craig Underwood, Township Zoning Officer/Code Official and Robert Ansell, Township Public Works Director/Roadmaster, were also present.

Mr. Oliver Overlander and Mr. Michael Lausch, representing the Donegal School District, were present to address the issue of a second School Resource Officer to be placed in the district's schools. They stated that in a discussion with the Susquehanna Regional Police Department, it was indicated that a second officer from the Department would not be possible. As a result, the District approached Mount Joy Borough to discuss the potential of an officer from the Mount Joy Borough Police Department.

The District has received a letter from Susquehanna Regional Police Department indicating that problems with jurisdiction would result if the School Resource Officer was from the Borough's Police Department.

Mr. Lausch stated that the District is very pleased with its relationship with the Susquehanna Regional Police Department and Officer Scott Ney, the current School Resource Officer. The District would prefer to build on that relationship but believed they needed to look elsewhere.

Supervisor Jones, the Township's representative to the Susquehanna Regional Police Commission, stated that the Department is currently in the budget process. The Commission discussed the School Resource Officer at its October meeting for the first time. It's intended that the Commission will approve a second School Resource Officer. The Commission will discuss this again at its November meeting.

Joseph McIlhenny, Executive Director, Milanof-Schock Library, presented the Board with the Library's budget request for 2023. The request seeks an increase in Township contribution to \$42,000.

Discussion of 2023 Township General Fund Budget

Mr. Butler highlighted the proposed timeline for consideration and adoption of the 2023 Budget. It's anticipated that a draft budget will be approved for public review at the

November 3, 2022, meeting of the Board and that adoption of the final budget would occur at the December 1, 2022, meeting of the Board. Should revisions require additional time for consideration, the budget must be adopted before the end of the year. The budget information prepared for this meeting did not propose an increase in the current Township tax rate of 3.1165 mills.

Over 80% of the revenue for the General Fund comes from taxes collected. There are four taxes collected that provide Township revenue. They are Real Estate Property tax, Earned Income Tax, Local Services Tax, and Real Estate Transfer tax. The largest portion being Real Estate Property Tax, estimated to generate \$2,110,000.00.

Another source of revenue for 2022 are grants. The Township has been awarded two grants for the Evans Run Stormwater project. The total of these two grants is \$400,000.00.

On the expenditures side, Public Safety, specifically police, remains a significant expense. Although the Susquehanna Regional Police Department budget has not been finalized, contractual cost is anticipated to be close to \$1,893,686.00. East Donegal Township contributes 58.2% of the Department's funds received from member municipalities.

Under the Fire line items, the draft budget reflects budget information received from the Maytown East Donegal Township Fire Department. In addition, Township direct payments for fuel for the Department have been added to the donation made to the Department.

The draft budget also reflects an increase in contributions to Fire Department Mount Joy and Marietta Fire Company, as well as to their fire police squads.

There was a brief discussion regarding the new Rescue ordered by Maytown East Donegal Township Fire Department. Delivery of the Rescue is anticipated to be in 2024. There would be no payment due on the new vehicle in 2023.

Mr. Butler and Mr. Ansell presented the line items within the Public Works categories. It's proposed that a new heavy-duty pick-up with dump bed be purchased in 2023. In addition to serving work done in Township Parks, the truck would also be outfitted with a plow.

Public Works projects include completion of stormwater management improvements to Coffee Goss Road and the realignment of Coffee Goss Road needed to accommodate these stormwater improvements. These projects are being done in conjunction with the Bridle Path residential development. It was anticipated that these projects would have been completed this year, however both have been delayed.

The most significant stormwater project proposed is the Evans Run stream restoration project. This project, done in cooperation with Marietta Borough, is planned to address the Township's MS4 reduction requirements under the current NPDES permit.

Stormwater improvements to the Longwood Square detention basin are budgeted for 2023 in anticipation of a small residential development adjacent to the basin.

Mr. Butler identified projects proposed within Township parks. Projects include the improvement to driveways and parking in the Chickies Creek Day Use Area. Other projects included the resurfacing of a basketball court, and surveillance cameras at Riverfront Park.

In addition to running the Township's summer playground program, the budget includes funding to become a participating member of GEARS. The cost to the Township for membership is \$76,000.

The draft budget proposes an increase in contributions to the Maytown Historical Society and Northwest EMS.

Mr. Butler indicated that the budget information presented incorporates a 5% pay rate increase for Township employees. The budget continues to reflect the hiring of a part-time seasonal employee for the Public Works Department.

Mr. Butler provided the Board with the list of projects to be done utilizing Highway Aid Fund monies. These included widening and paving of the Township's portion of Donegal Springs Road. In addition, oil and chip treatment, with fog seal, is proposed for streets within the Village Square development. Winter salt purchases and roadway line painting will also be done using Highway Aid funds.

Mr. Butler briefly discussed the increases in costs to provide trash/recycling services. The hauler contracted cost is increasing by \$12.71 per customer. In addition, the tipping fees paid to the Lancaster County Solid Waste Authority for both refuse and recycling is increasing \$15.00 per ton. As a result, the cost to residents for the service will need to be re-evaluated.

Mr. Butler stated that the draft budget will be prepared based on the information gathered from the meeting and the receipt of refined cost estimates. It's anticipated that the draft budget will be prepared for the November 3, 2022, meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Esbenshade and seconded by Mr. Kingsboro to adjourn at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey L. Butler, Township Secretary